INTERVIEW WITH MR. ROSS BUNDY

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Conducted by:

Dr. James L. Dodson

--and--

Miss Paula Boyer

Interview with Mr. Ross Bundy

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Dodson: We'd just like for you to give us your full name and tell us how long you've lived in the valley, to start things off. And we're interested in where you lived in the valley, especially in your case.

Bundy: Well, my name is Ross Bundy and I've lived in the valley since 1923 and I lived on, in Lankershim first, on Lankershim Boulevard, on the corner of Lankershim Blvd. and Victory Blvd. And I lived there for about a year and uh in what was at that time a big, ...I lived on a place which was a big stone house, I think the stone house is still there, and I had a chicken ranch there; started the chicken business there with 11,000 baby chicks... and...and uh...after, I was paying at that time a hundred a month's rent and uh..I found out I could buy a place for that money so I went out and finally found a place on Burbank Boulevard and uh..I moved there in 1925.

Dodson: And that's the site of our college at the present time?

Bundy: That's the site of the college. And the college bought me out. I lived there until the college bought me out in 1950.

Dodson: Mr. Bundy I wonder if you'd tell us uh..about how uh.. you built a house when you came to the present site of our college and planted some trees and that sort of thing, ...the house is already built?

Bundy: Yes. And there was two...the house was already built and there was two chicken houses uh..each uh..60 feet

...two sixty foot..no three sixty foot chicken houses at the back of the place. and I built two large houses in front: one a hundred and ten feet long and the other one a hundred and twenty-eight feet long and uh.. put in when I moved there I had around four thousand hens and uh..moved them in there and that's why I bought that place was because it was suitable for chickens.

Dodson: I see. You were in that business, the poultry farming business then as long as you lived at your place?

Bundy: Yes, yes, I was in that business, 'course at the last why they had me pretty well, uh..out of it because uh.. the uh..neighbors was movin' and they put a uh.. a uh.. court next door, they put a chicken ranch in first and then when they got tired of that rebuilt it into..to a court and rented it and right away quick I was terrible then.

Dodson: Was that on the college site too?

Bundy: Oh yes, yes that was on the college site just at the east, the west of us. Just on the west side of those trees, oh starting just about twenty feet from those big, eucalyptus trees and uh..uh..there was a fellow by the name of Dr. Wilson, he went in there and went into the chicken business and built a whole lot of houses and so forth on then, then turned around and decided to go out of the chicken business and built it into a court and rented it out as a court and then, oh, I had rabbits as well as chickens and I had ducks and geese and turkeys and pheasants and uh..guinea hens and anything you wanted I had it ...[?]..... in the chicken business because I had to trade in Beverly Hills that wanted all that stuff. I even had uh..about a thousand pigeons at one time and uh..'course I cleaned and dressed the chickens and everything right there on the ranch and then delivered them

in Beverly Hills and Hollywood and I did that for seventeen years.

Paula: Did the people at that time, if they wanted like, chicken they'd go out and buy it from a chicken ranch?

Bundy: Oh, originally when I was on Lankershim Boulevard, they would come and uh..I..when I put eleven thousand baby chicks in I had all these little white birds--they weighed three quarters of a pound alive so you could imagine how big they was but people would come up and all I had to do was cut their throat and wrap 'em up in newspaper and give 'em to them and they'd take 'em home and ..[?].. them and take their feathers off and take the inners out and when they got through they didn't have anything so I think I made more enemies than I did friends with those... I ....I..uh had uh..I had about four thousand of them and uh..sold them three for a dollar and..uh..they'd just come and take 'em just as fast as...I had one woman come and get a hundred of them at one time...and come out in a big car and..uh..

Paula: Kind of like the corner

Bundy: Yeah.

Paula:

Bundy: Well, they was, ...[?]...wasn't nearly that big...had the breast on them, that was the catch because they was white leggers...[?]...but we never thought of dressing 'em at that time, then, when I got over on Burbank Boulevard, I used to ...my sister would come out. She lived in Los Angeles and she would come out and get eggs and chickens

about every week, ..what she needed. And then she got to taking them to the neighbors around; they'd say .. "Well, bring me some eggs and bring me a chicken"... and so forth and then it got to be quite a job for her to come every week so she said, "Well, if you ..uh.. if I come one week how about you coming in the next week with them?" And I said, "O.K." Then some of my customers found out I was going down Western Avenue and they lived on Western Avenue and said "Well, you can just as well drop off the chickens to me instead of us making the trip out every week. So I started out by dropping 'em off to them and pretty soon I had more and more and got a regular route.

Dodson: That'd be pretty hard to sell, an undressed chicken now I imagine, wouldn't it?

Bundy: Oh! People wouldn't even...wouldn't have any idea. Another thing..uh..when I, uh..got to delivering the chickens and eggs, mostly it was uh..started out with mostly for the eggs in town but I had chickens and rabbits and uh..as I said ducks and geese and other things, but.. uh..people would say "Well, I'd like to have chickens but I don't know how to cut it up." And I'd say, "Well, I'd cut it up." So I started, I got cake boxes, 6x6x3 and..uh..and lined them with wax paper and we'd cut up the chickens for 'em, wash 'em and everything and they was already and a lot of my customers would say "Well, I hope these are all pure and sanitary because I just set the box on the stove and..and take the chicken right out of the box and put it in the frying pan, I never wash them or anything." And I think we were the first ones that ever started to cutting up chickens and selling them in boxes that way.

Dodson: Well, that's an interesting historical fact in itself.

Bundy: Well, that was...that was a long time ago.

Paula: How much did the eggs sell for?

Bundy: Well, ...uh..at that time if we got uh..three for a dollar, three dozen for a dollar, we thought we was really making money.

Dodson: Three dozen for a dollar?

Bundy: Yeah.

Paula: How much for the chicken?

Bundy: Oh, uh..twenty to twenty-five cents a pound and..and uh.. that was with the feathers off. Yeah, what we call dressed and uh..and as I said we, we sold lot's of eggs, twenty and twenty-five cents a dozen and when we was getting three for a dollar, well, that was near thirty-five cents, three for a dollar. Well, then we was really doing something.

Dodson: And that was profitable to you was it?

Bundy: Oh, yes. It was a penny-anti business because you..um.. you made only a few cents on each thing see and you had to make it pay. For instance, ..uh..if you sold chickens at twenty cents a pound..uh..you know, it ..uh..maybe cost you fifteen cents to raise them. So you'se only making really five cents a pound off of them. But..uh.. later it got to the point where they got in big production, it wasn't worth it to ..uh..

...to raise them because..uh..'cause I talked to one of my friends well,..uh..the.....feed man and he said "Well, why don't you put in a bunch of chickens?" I said, "Well, I can't afford to. I can go out and buy them cheaper than I can raise them now." And he said, "Well, your neighbor up here is putting in five thousand a week." I says, "Yeah, how much is he making off of each chicken that he puts in?" And he said, "Well, he's making five cents a bird." And I said, "Well, if he gets a disease in there, and he loses a bunch of them, and he's lost the profit on so many of them that you can't do it." That's why now they take and..and..uh..uh..the ..uh..baby chick is, gets vaccinated when its three days, three weeks and three months old. And..uh.. because on account of the loss, they're always at a loss. Sometimes you get a bunch and they just all go bad.

Dodson: You didn't have any trouble with this Newcastle's disease?

Bundy: No I never had the Newcastle's disease. No, I was very lucky, that way.

Dodson: One thing I wanted to ask you about was the effect of the depression on your business.

Bundy: Well, we got down pretty low. "Course we didn't notice it so much because we always had chickens and eggs and uh..but we didn't have any money and everybody wanted to buy and I had a hard time..uh..delivering chickens and eggs in town because people didn't have the money to pay for them and uh..although I was always lucky enough to sell seventy-five to a hundred dozen every trip which was only on Tuesdays and Friday that I went for years, seventeen years.

But it was really tough, people couldn't buy and those that did..uh..several of them beat me out of my account. They beat up to eight or ten dollars and I'd tell, well, I couldn't carry them any longer and I never did get it on some of them although I didn't lose too much; I don't suppose I lost over a hundred dollars that way because I was pretty careful. Some of them, one account I remember she got into me for about twenty-five dollars and then moved and went back east and I thought sure it was gone and uh..couple of years later she sent me a cheque for the whole thing.

Dodson: Is that right?

Bundy: Yes, I was lucky ..[?]..

Dodson: But you weren't one of the businesses then that was bankrupted by the depression?

Bundy: Well, no not quite although uh..if I hadn't been lucky to the extent that the woman that...uh...that uh...that held the mortgage on my place, told me.....whatever I did I couldn't keep my payments up and she told me whatever I did not to move. She would, she owned the other two and a half acres on the corner of Ethel and Burbank and lived in a house there on Ethel Street at that time but uh..she said whatever you do, dont, don't leave me and she didn't press me for the money and that saved my neck otherwise I would of been put clear out on the street if I'd had most people..[?]..mortgage holders.

Dodson: Did the price of chickens and eggs fail to the point where you could hardly break even?

Bundy: Oh yes, they, we, as I said we was only making..uh.. four or five cents a pound. But the trouble with it was people couldn't buy, they didn't have the money to buy it and, and you just, you know, it, it was just impossible to sell and uh..'course what saved me was that people would come out there and get the stuff right there at the ranch, and I sold most of my stuff right there and I had a separate driveway coming in off of Burbank Blvd. and they could drive in and drive out and..uh..

Paula: Our first drive in, drive out...

Bundy: That's what it was. That's no joke. That they come in and stop there...

Paula: Stop right by the basement...

Bundy: Yeah, the basement and uh..they would get their stuff and sometimes there'd be two or three cars in line.

Paula: Did you still have your trade with the people from Beverly Hills at that time, during the depression?

Bundy: Well, I was, I was just really getting a good start over there; just barely getting started. No, I didn't have very much business at that time. Most of my business didn't come until the late thirties.

Paula: Excuse me, when did the business start dying down to the extent that people started going to the grocery stores for ...

Bundy: Well, of course really, I kind of backed out of it because they kept pushing me so hard, this neighbor who fixed his

ranch over into bungalows and made a bungalow court propostion out of it and for instance, they had dumped their fertilizer right next to me and it was always wet and it uh..like where..next to where I had my rabbits, well, it made me move my rabbits over a hundred feet. If I hadn't had three hundred feet on the frontage there so I could have a hundred feet on each side then I put my rabbits in the center, I had to move them clear over there out of the way, and uh..otherwise they would run me clear out. Then it got to the point that you had to have a...a inspected killing house and so I had to ..to..there was a chicken place right on the corner of Fulton and...and Burbank... and I could go up there and dress them there..and a...a fellow by the name of Beaver had the Beaver poultry company there and he had a license and all the ..uh..equipment right there and I used to work with him.

Dodson: Now were you still in that business when the college bought out the land?

Bundy: Well, yes, I was still..I didn't have the...I had about two hundred rabbits, about fifty does--fifty bucks, and I sold out before I moved.

Paula: You didn't have any chickens left?

Bundy: We didn't have the chickens, no, I was getting the chickens through Joe and..uh..at that time I had quit the chickens because they had..ah..they was just so rough that it was terrible, you know. They complain about the smell of...uh.. everything, but they put out the fertilizer out there on, on a platform and it was, because it was all blacktop and they'd have to scoop it up and they had their chickens

all in cages. And it was so sloppy that it just stunk to high heaven and you'd see these poor Mexicans come to haul it away and they'd come out there and throw up, two and three times while they was trying to load a load of fertilizer.

Paula: Between that and the dairy there was a pretty good smell around..well, the dairy got pretty strong too?

Bundy: Well,...'course...

Paula: But we got use to it...[?]...

Bundy: Yeah, that's for sure. 'Course it's the same old story we have right here...they...they just got a couple of horses in back of the tennis court and I heard the people out there playing tennis yesterday and they complained that it smelled like a barnyard out here. They clean that up everyday and..oh yeah..they clean up the droppings and put them in a garbage can, everyday and I can't smell it but I heard the women out there saying "Oh, it smells like a barnyard.

Dodson: Well, is the dairy still in existence at the time that land was sold to the college?

Bundy: No, no, no.

Paula: He went first?

Bundy: He went out before I did, yeah.

Dodson: Well, what was that land used for then, the dairy land?

Bundy: Well, they was uh..it wasn't..used for anything at that time, I don't think.

Paula: It was empty...I'm trying to picture it...

Bundy: Yeah, it was empty, the barns was all empty and everything.

Paula: They knocked it down...I remember them knocking it down.

Bundy: Yeah, I do to but uh..but uh...

Paula: Then it was just left empty for a while.

Bundy: Yeah, it was just empty...I don't think...I don't think they even farmed it..uh..

Dodson: Now one thing I've been interested in about the land itself, frequently when we put up a building we have to put piles in there first, was that clear land or ..[?]..or what was the problem?

Bundy: No, the part up where we was, was high but it was filled down below, evidently you've filled it since then, they filled, they either scraped in..because we had a big drop-off there, just below our place, just one corner of our place come into it and that was the uh..the northeast corner. There was a little, there was a little place there which was down low and that's where when in uh.. well, I don't know what year it was now, but we had a flood come through there and the houses down below, there was a Mormon turkey ranch on the east side of Ethel street and it drowned thousands of turkeys and they washed on down and, and we had all the people from down in there come up there and a lot of them stayed all night and uh..stayed on

our place because it was up high and we was making coffee and taking care of them the best we could and went down and...and let out the cattle and the horses and uh..but the turkeys, he had so many turkeys that they just drowned hundreds of them and it was quite a disaster. I can't just tell you what year that was now but...

Dodson: Could that have been 1938; I understand there was a flood about then? I think that's the day ...[?]

Bundy: Yeah, it's about that time. Yeah it was about, round about that time.

Dodson: Then where the land that the campus is now isn't the way that it was when you.....

Bundy: Oh no, no, it was a big drop off; like at the dairy behind us, that dropped off ten acres down below was, well, the corrals that the, cow corrals slanted down so that it kept the water and so forth when it rained went off of it real good and then the lower part, he farmed that and had it in hay and alfalfa and so forth. 'Course at that time uh...when we originally moved there, most all of this land out in here was uh..was grain land. And then later they put in the walnut orchards and the citrus orchards and uh..uh..[?].. these old trees, these old walnut trees, there about thirty-five years old, that's here, for instance, now.

Dodson: So where we have the flood control channel now, there was a wash until recently?

Bundy: Oh yeah, yeah. That was.... the...

Dodson: Did that cause you much trouble from flooding fairly regularly? Because that wash was there?

Bundy: No, that was the only time it ever flooded. That's the only time it ever...it used to be filled up pretty full but it never, never went over the banks like it did that time, I can't remeber just what, what happened that uh... that uh...that flooded everything that year but, I mean as far as flooded there was a dam broke or...it don't seem like there was a dam broke it was just a, a flash flood and..but it was...it did an awful lot of damage in those low places next to the wash. But at that time there was nono walls or anything on the wash and you could uh..go out from there clear up to the Hanson[?] Dam and uh..horseback...that was our favorite riding places and..it's like now there's just practically no place now that these places are all cemented over; all these washes. 'Cause there use to be the uh..the uh one right down here that we could go clear up to Hanson [?] Dam to, from here. It branched off and..and..but now it's just a..there's no place there you can ride at all. There's no place to ride anymore.

Dodson: It's a little hard for me to picture now that uh..that was a wash and that you could ride all the way from that college over there to Hanson[?] Dam. I can't quite picture how that could be.

Paula: I didn't know you rode then?...I knew it went for miles but I didn't know it went that far.

Bundy: Yeah, well, of course, Jean and I was the ones that rode, that was my youngest daughter. But uh..no there was

shrubbery on both sides of the wash..uh..the..oh fifteen, twenty foot high on each side of it and there was lots of brush and trees along the wash.

Dodson: Did you uh..get your early education in the Valley area or were you living in Pasadena?

Bundy: No, I was living in Pasadena when I..I went to school in Pasadena and then I went up to Davis and graduated from Davis.

Dodson: How did you happen to move into the Valley the first time?

Bundy: Well, I, ...one of my friends in ...college had taken uh.. poultry and I had taken mostly animal husbandry and beef cattle and ..[?].. so I got a wild idea to come down here and start in the walnut business, get a walnut orchard. I was going to have a walnut orchard and...and...he was to have a...a chicken ranch at the same time and we could work together; have it all on one ranch. But, when I got down here you couldn't buy a walnut orchard for love nor money, I stopped in Ventura, in Simi, in Saticoy, and they would say, "Oh, yes, it's worth 3500 an acre but, oh, no, we wouldn't sell." And I talked to real estate men and they said they hadn't sold a ranch in twenty years to anybody except a neighbor or somebody. Somebody'd pass away and then they would sell it to a neighbor, but, sell a ranch outside to nobody. So I gave up on that and my partner and I decided to come down here and hit the poultry business and hit it hard because I didn't like the poultry business, I never went near it,....When I was in the University ...

Dodson: That wasn't the type of agriculture or farming that appealed to you?

Bundy: I had...I had my poultry business when I was a kid. My..when we live in ...[?]...we was in the poultry business and whenever I did anything I shouldn't I had to go clean up chicken houses. We had...

Paula: Well, I made the same mistake, when I..when they'd get mad at me I always cleaned up the rabbits, so...[?]... cleaning up the rabbits.

Dodson: They had different ways ofcourse of discipline in those days than..

Bundy: Things were a lot different in those days. These kids nowadays don't have enough to do.

Paula: Well, I did...[?]???

Dodson: So you decided then to go into the poultry business?

Bundy: Yeah. That's what we did: ordered eleven thousand baby chicks for one day, to come all in one day and started in the poultry business.

Dodson: You sure started with a bang, with eleven thousand in one day.

Bundy: We did. At that time that was a lot of chickens, nowadays that doesn't amount to nothing. These people, these..uh.. poultry men now, they put 'em in by a hundreds of thousands and you take like Poultry City out here at ...[?] Park and so forth are..they're way up in the millions of chickens. That's why the little guy can't make a living any more.

Dodson: I understand that's pretty true in any branch of agriculture now?

Bundy: Practically, yes...

Dodson: It's big business...

Bundy: It's gotten so scientific...it's the same thing with cattle and uh...horses. Everything has got so expensive that the little guy can't, can't afford to have enough to do any good. ...[?]...

Dodson: I'm interested in the sort of pens that you had. Were they large on the ground or did you have these small things off the ground?

Bundy: No, the hen cages hadn't come into, during my...they had just...as I quit they were just coming into style..... When I moved over on, on, when I was on Lankershim Blvd. I had them out in pens, but when I moved over, on Burbank I had them in the houses and had them on stands and the roofs were so I could put them down at night and lift'em up in the daytime; hang'em to the ceiling in the daytime and rake up the droppings every day and that way they was inside with a wire front. They was on the ground but they was still inside all the time, they weren't...there was no outside ...[?]...at that time.

Dodson: Is there any advantage in the way you were doing it over the cage system now in use?

Bundy: Well, no, the...the.....the cage system they know what every bird does where I had to guess at it more or less.

Dodson: Oh, I see. So you didn't...you weren't quite as sure which ones were doing the laying, which ones weren't?

Bundy: Well, 'course you could tell which hen was laying without any trouble but then it's...you can't check'em every day when you've got thousands of them,that's for sure. And of-course we had at the time...I lived there up across the ... uh..street, across Fulton just on Burbank Blvd. was a big lettuce shed and uh...for instance you could get all the lettuce trimmings and so forth you wanted because I used to go up there with a truck and I got..I had a wild hare at one time that if I ..[?]..save my feed you see they'ed eat the lettuce. Well, I got a couple of truck loads of lettuce for several days and bang, my egg production just dropped like ...they'd eat the lettuce alright but they didn't eat any of the feed that would make the chick..eggs. Therefore I didn't get the eggs. So I soon quit that. 'Course we had to learn, people didn't know a lot of things that we know nowadays about those things. I did the same thing on carrots, practically. I..they raised lots of carrots at that time around there and I got carrots and ground them up and they would eat the carrots and the yolks would get so dyed that they would just be orange colored. And people didn't like it, they complained about it. So we, we had to ...it was a proposition of trial and error on a lot of those things.

Dodson: Well I know there's one type of grain that you can feed chickens, it'll cause the yolks to be green..[?] ..I don't know what it is.

Bundy: Well, I remember something about that too. But..uh..'course a lot of people don't realize..a lot of people say oh..some-thing 'bout they're afraid that they're goin' to get an egg from a sick chicken or something like that. A chicken that gets

sick, the first thing she does is to plug the egg back. If the shell isn't on it she can absorb that back into her system.

Dodson: Is that right? So your...

Bundy: A sick chicken never lays an egg.

Dodson: Is that right? I didn't know that.

Bundy: That's for sure. ..[?]..When she gets off her feed she absorbs the yolk..the whole egg back into her system, if it's not...with a...shell on it. And therefore people don't have to worry that way about having eggs from sick chickens or anything.

Dodson: I was asking about the effect of Newcastles disease when I had to change the tape there. Does that stop the egg laying too?

Bundy: Oh yes. Oh, yes. I never was around ..uh..Newcastle.. but I know of it and it stops, the minute they get Newcastle, they stop laying right away, hens. If they...but as I understand it, Newcastles disease affects generally younger chickens before they start to lay.

Dodson: I see. However, that's caused some poultry men tremendous losses.

Bundy: Oh, yeah. There's no doubt about that. Well, there's several of them, I..uh..I had one episode..with sickness.. where I had a bunch of chicks and they got up and first I

lost one and then another and uh..I said to my partner.. I said.."What is this? What's wrong?" "Oh, it's just got a little cold. It don't bother nothin'. We'll lose a couple of them." Well, in two or three days I'd lost about twenty-five of them and that was gettin' too much of it; the thing. So I started to find out where, what it was and I got hold of the hatchery and everything else and finally found it was a..it was a..well, we would call it a cold proposition, but I would spray 'em, I would spray over them at night and uh.. because they couldn't breathe, it was in their breathing. And I'd spray...they sent me some stuff to spray over 'em and I sprayed over them for three or four nights and cleared it up.

Dodson: Did you ever use potassium permanganate in their drinking water?

Bundy: Oh yes, I used that too. I used all kinds of things... so many poisons that you can use...uh..but it does not affect the chicken. The chicken can..uh..take, for instance, bichloride of mercury and it won't hurt the chicken at all but it'd kill any other animal practically.

Dodson: Is that right? There's that much difference in their system than in that of other animals?

Bundy: It doesn't hurt them at all, but it'll, of course, kill the germs and so forth...but..uh..well, there's many things like that that you go through..and..like..uh..the chicken business today is..has to be on a big..uh..capacity, otherwise you can't make it. It's just impossible to make a good..you have up to..I think..at that time they had where we lived here..where we lived here, they had F..[?]..Poultry

Colony. F..[?].. was the man that I rented from on Lankershim Boulevard and he was building this F..[?].. poultry farm way out here..it was then Zelzah; it's now Northridge. And uh..and uh..he would..if he would take...if he would buy a place and put three thousand hens on it they would guarantee you a living for a man and his wife, on that.. from three thousand hens, from the eggs. But he lived in the end of the chicken house, the first section of the chicken house was the living quarters and yeah, there was dozens of places right up here for ..that..uh..some of the houses when the old W..[?].. Colony was out here and they..they were in the same kind of a deal..practically. They would guarantee you if you..the catch was that you had to keep replacing anyone that they said that they'd tell you that the..take that chicken out...you had to take it out, under their guarantee and put in new chickens all the time.

Dodson: ..[?].. if they were able to do that.

Bundy: But..uh..you could really make a living off of three or four thousand chickens at that time. Where, now, it's uh.. I think they claim theleast you can get by with is twenty-five thousand.

Dodson: So, it's no business for the small man at all.

Bundy: No. No, it takes too much money; too much equipment. 'Course it's all in hen cages and..and uh..all automatic now. Automatic feeders, automatic waters..everything is automatic...

Dodson: Now you were telling us that you also raise rabbits, can you tell us a little bit about how you marketed those? And what

they were worth at the time?

Bundy: Well, uh..they were worth about twenty-five cents a pound. No, I had..I had no trouble with rabbits and especially during the..the uh..time when the uh..meat was short, uh.. when it was rationed. We went through the rationing period and rabbit wasn't rationed. Well, I could sell rabbits before they was born.

Dodson: That was during World War II then.

Bundy: Yes. They..they..people would come out and order them way ahead and pay for 'em and the average rabbit ran about a dollar a piece. For now as I understand it they're four dollars. Or four to five dollars.

Paula: I won't even buy them.

Bundy: No.

Paula: 'Cause they don't taste like this. I don't know what they do to them but they don't have the taste like this.

Bundy: No, I..uh.'course I pushed them and fed them good feed and we tried to have..start killing them at eight weeks old and by the time they was ten weeks old they was all gone. And then you had another litter coming. You'd give the doe back, give the doe back eight weeks, when the babies was eight weeks old and then at uh..ten weeks they was all gone and then she had two weeks more before she had the next litter. You see she was nursing a few during the last two weeks uh..during the first two weeks of her pregnancy.

Dodson: Is that right?

But it was impossible to keep the rabbits going in that way?

Bundy: Oh, yeah, yeah...they just keep...some people uh..some people push them harder than that but that was my system of eight eight weeks trying to have them all up around four pounds, live weight, by the time they was eight weeks old.

Dodson: Did you sell those to markets then?

Bundy: Well, I..no, mostly to private people.

Dodson: I see.

Bundy: In fact, all of them to private people because I never sold to markets because I never had to. I've had a good reputation and..and another thing, I cut the rabbits up and put them in boxes like I told you I put chickens in boxes too. And uh..uh..the average rabbit I would cut up in ten pieces and I'd disjoin them and never break a bone. Where..the butchers did with a cleaver and just chopped them and they splinter the bones and so forth and uh..

Paula: They do the chickens that way too.

Bundy: Yes. They do the chickens where you take a little bowie knife and uh..I could cut up...I could take..kill ten rabbits and have 'em all kickin' and all cut up in pieces and still kickin' in the bucket but....

Dodson: This thing I imagine was pretty profitable during the war then.

Bundy: Oh, yes.

Dodson: I hadn't realized that the rabbits weren't rationed like other things.

Bundy: No, rabbits wasn't rationed like meat you see. And uh.. we were..well, as I say, they would buy 'em before they was big enough to go. I'd just as soon as they get anywhere near the four pounds they all go.."Can't you please get one for us?"

Paula: ..[?]..you work seven days a week and twelve hours a day, or whatever,..round the clock.

Bundy: Twenty-four hours a day...

Paula: Yes.

Bundy: Because, at that time, we had to have dogs on every corner to keep 'em from stealing them.

Paula: Good grief!

Bundy: It was uh..at one time I had eight dogs then I went down to the pound and got all kinds of shapes and sizes and I had them all tied on all corners and you could come in and turn the house over as long as you didn't get one of those dogs to bark, if one of those dogs barked I'd hit the floor and I was outside so quick that there's no fun in it. And I never had any chickens stolen.

Dodson: Was that just during the war that you had that problem or was that general?

Bundy: Oh, no, that was general. One day the lady across the street

went in town and I didn't know she'd gone, and uh.. this is right down Burbank Boulevard and I saw the truck and two men over there loading up chickens but I didn't think anything about it; 'cause she sold chickens and so forth. She come home and come over and she says, "...did you see anybody getting my chickens?" I said, "Yeah, there's a truck over there and they loaded them up." She says, "I've only got three chickens left." They evidently couldn't catch those three.

Paula: Who was that, Summers?

Bundy: No, next to Summers...uh..he..what was his name? Nextdoor? Anyhow, it was terrible and..and like the Mormon Turkey Ranch, which was down the hill, he built a big tower proposition and had to sleep out there at nights; had to stay out there at nights to protect his turkeys and they still stole his turkeys lots of times. Oh, yes, we..at that time it was terrible on the chickens, if you didn't have dogs on every corner...I had..every corner, I had dogs in the pen in the back, I had a pen in back of the chicken house, next to the dairy, and I had a dog loose in there. Then I had a dog tied at the end of each chicken house, on a chain, and..and..we..

Paula: ...We had a lot of bums and hobos, then, too.

Bundy: Well, ofcourse, at that time, as you say there was, but, then, it wasn't the bums and hobos that was stealing the stuff, it was the chicken men. They'd steal you blind. And what had happened, this woman come to find out, she had told this chicken man, that had come there to talk about buying the chickens, that she was going to be away, that

he couldn't come that day 'cause he was to come the next day. And she didn't know who he was or anything about it afterwards. And there was no way to trace him. And she lost four hundred and fifty some chickens, I think it was.

Dodson: Is that right? I suppose the very fact that he drove up in day, in broad daylight, would attract...kept you from being suspicious.

Bundy: Well, I didn't know that much about what she was doing. I was too busy taking care of my own chickens.

Dodson: Well, now, you talk about the danger to the chickens, how about your house itself? Did you feel that the contents of your house was safe and just...

Bundy: Safe as could be, we never even locked the doors, never thought of it. We looked...I looked over here on Nordoff even, and when we went to move I couldn't even find a key to the place 'cause they never locked it. And down there on Burbank Boulevard, we never thought anything about locking the doors or anything. We never...that was the least of your worries. And now we have to lock every door if you... before you go out the back because somebody will come in the front. So lock it.

Dodson: So it was just the chickens or livestock they were after, they never bothered with the houses?

Bundy: No. They wasn't after the houses at all. Even the old bums, under the lettuce shed, the old...[?]...as we called them, stayed up there and they would come down and want something to eat. And we'd always give 'em something to

eat. I could always make eggs and make an egg sandwich. The wife would make an egg sandwich or something for 'em like that. And we always fed 'em. And they always knew they could come and get something to eat, if they come and wanted something to eat or wanted...sometimes they'd come and....."can we have two or three slices of bread?" They'd want something say..."somebody gave us something else but we need some bread"...or something like that. So we'd always, always give 'em to 'em. For now, here, we've never had them up here. I think we've had one or two over on Nordoff, but, ...

Paula: Now you'd be afraid to...

Bundy: Yeah, now you'd almost be afraid to have 'em because....

Paula: Cause we were never afraid of them...with the hobos. We'd go out and feed 'em...

Bundy: Oh sure!

Paula: ...children...

Bundy: No, the kids, we never had any worry about. The kids, like nowadays, you'd be afraid to have them out here and running around like we did then. And not have to watch them all the time and..uh..things have changed terribly.

Dodson: Yes, everyone seems to agree that things were much safer in the past than they are now.

Bundy: Oh, very much safer. Especially in...about the houses because, as I say, we never thought of anything like that.

Dodson: Your dogs were just to protect the chickens, not the ...

Bundy: Yes, they were..they weren't even close to the house. Although my wife had one for quite a long time, she kept with her pretty good. But, he slept outside and..and.. had even a pen behind the rabbits so he could protect them. On that side, then if anybody come in on that side, which was on the west of us, and it was an open field for a long time, before they put in the chicken place and then after put in the bungalow court.

Dodson: Well, how about the surroundings of the ..uh..college site at that time, were there many houses on Fulton and Burbank?

Bundy: Oh yes. They was..they was all lined, and they was lined all along Ethel Street. They were practically solid, I think, except the dairy behind us was...[?]..and then beyond that it was solid right on up to the corner of Oxnard.

Dodson: So you really had just the open space there in the college site itself?

Bundy: Yeah. Yeah.

Dodson: I see. We haven't been asking your daughter much about anything. Here we've been letting you....

Bundy: I didn't give you a chance...

Ms. B.: No, that's fine...I don't like to.....

Dodson: Well, we don't want her to feel left out here at all.

Ms. B.: I don't feel left out at all, really, I'm not that good of a talker.

Dodson: Now you did go to school here in the Valley, didn't you; since you were born there on the site of our college?

Ms. B.: Yes.

Dodson: 'Course that's quite a distinction. Gosh, you're the first person we met who was really a real alumnus, alumni of our college.

Bundy: People, people..uh..nowadays aren't born at home very often.

Ms. B.: No.

Dodson: No, that's..was a distinction in itself. Can you tell us what elementary school you went to?

Ms. B.: Van...oh, isn't that awful...Van Nuys..or if not Van Nuys, though,...is it Van Nuys elementary?

Bundy: No, it was North Hollywood, you went to North Hollywood and then you went to Van Nuys High School.

Ms. B.: No, he means elementary school. I went to Van Nuys elementary, then I went to North Hollywood Junior High,.....

Bundy: Oh, yeah, that's right.

Ms. B.: ..in fact it was brand new then, North Hollywood Junior High, I was one of the first ones to go into that. And for some

reason you had to go to Van Nuys High because we were living in Van Nuys. And we ..[?]...I'll have you know I went on the bus.

Dodson: But I'll bet it wasn't for the same reason that they're going on it now.

Ms. B.: No, there was no other way of getting there, unless I walked, which I did a few times too, which was a long walk. I think it's three miles or more...

Paula: Oh, my...

Ms. B.: ...from town. Nowadays nobody would walk...

Bundy: Nobody would walk three miles...

Ms. B.: ...you got a car...

Dodson: Do you remember the names of any of your teachers?

Ms. B.: I'm not good at that...my sister should be here...

Bundy: That's for sure... she would remember each and every little detail.

Ms. B.: Mrs. Hubbard was the principal of Van Nuys until she died. Now I don't know...it still looks the same, Van Nuys High does...still brings memories back to me, going there.... 'cause it's still the same

Dodson: It's the same buildings...

Ms. B.: Yeah.

Dodson: I see. There was an original one that, I think, was damaged in the Long Beach quake and had to be torn down, but you went to the one which is there at the present time and I think that story is also true of the original Van Nuys Elementary School. So that would have been before your time, too. There used to be an elementary school with a large dome and I'm almost sure that would have been torn down.

Ms. B.: The elementary school you mean?

Dodson: Yes.

Ms. B.: On..umm..what street is that...on Van Nuys Boulevard isn't that...on the other side of Van Nuys Boulevard. I can't think what it is...that's the street that...boulevard... it's not there, the Van Nuys Elementary School?

Dodson: Not the one that I was speaking of with the large dome.

Ms. B.: That's too far back. I don't even know how I got there. Oh yes I do, mother sent me. That's when I was sent back a grade or something 'cause I was too young, I think.

Dodson: What sort of devilment did you get into when you went to school?

Ms. B.: I was a good kid.

Bundy: That's for sure, we never had any trouble did we? No, our kids was very good. They were always right at home when they should be on the time when they come home if they came by bus or they came on the buses they never missed a bus and uh..we were very fortunate that way. They never give us any trouble.

Ms. B.: You have to admit though, their dress code nowadays is sure a lot different than when we went to school.

Dodson: Well, can you describe the dress code when you went to school?

Ms. B.: Well, you wore dresses and saddle shoes. Remember those brown and white saddle shoes; never wore slacks, never got to wear slacks...

Bundy: Well, it was against the rules to wear slacks..., and the boys...it was very few that ever wore Levi's to school at that time. They all wore good pants and dressed, what I call, decently. That's occasional as they are today.

Dodson: Well, do you feel that that is good or bad, the change in fashions? Do you have any children of your own?

Ms. B.: Oh yes. Oh, yeah. A boy and a girl. Well, ofcourse when they went to school they couldn't wear slacks either, really. It's only been the last, let's see, five years. My boy's been out five years, out of high school, and the girl's been out seven, so when they went they had to wear dresses and the dress code was pretty good when they went to school, but now, what I see walking up the street is unbelievable. Well, I don't really care for it.

Bundy: No, I think it's terrible. I think that the...I think we've lost a lot of...our...

Ms. B.: Yeah....whatever you want to call it...

Bundy: Yeah, whatever...just people have lost all, all repect for dress or anything else. And they've lost..the worst thing is they've lost respect for the teachers and the principals and so forth. I think when they went to school their teachers

were the big thing. They was all crazy over their teachers. They were so fond of their teachers and they...they tried to learn..tried to do things for their teachers. Now the kids try to do anything against their teachers.

Ms. B.: Well, I think there's some that still...

Bundy: Oh, yes. There's some.

Ms. B.: Few though.

Bundy: The ones that we hear about are the ones that...

Dodson: Are the other way around.

Bundy: ...are the other way around, that's for sure.

Dodson: Now, I imagine when you went to school there was no such thing as a narcotics program or problem or something like that. At the time that your children were in school had that become a problem, or was it still unknown?

Ms. B.: Well,..[?]..my son, but he was lucky enough he didn't get into any of that, you know, they had it then. He went to ..[?]...Oh, yeah, he'd come home and he'd tell me how you could get it if you wanted it there. But he wasn't the type. He didn't want to start that. No, I got beautiful children. I can't...they are the greatest. I've been very fortunate, ..[?]..

Bundy: You sure have...

Ms. B.: We have a family that's unreal because we have great gatherings and things, with my sisters, we've been brought up

I think the right way.

Bundy: Well, like me at first, I..I was married fifty-two years, and uh..'til I lost my wife two years ago and now if it wasn't for my girls and don't know what I'd do.

Ms. B.: I think that's the way we were brought up.

Dodson: What sort of a social life did you have.....as a teenager here in the valley? What did you do for fun?

Bundy: You went to parties, and so forth....

Ms. B.: Oh, yeah, we went to stroll...isn't that awful...seems that all I remember is we worked a lot...it was work on that ranch...that's all right 'cause I worked too. You know...

Dodson: Never had any trouble because we always had something for her to do.

Ms. B.: Yeah, always had something for us to do...bad enough that we were deprived of ever going any where.

Bundy: No, no, no...

Ms. B.: Especially then, because it wasn't anything like it is now-adays....with concerts and the shows they have and things like that. They didn't have them then.

Dodson: What sort of chores did you have on the ranch, what was your part of it?

Ms. B.: Cleaning up the lavatory as we called it...that's the one thing that always sticks out in my mind, I swear. I can't

remember where my sister was, I think she could always worm her way out.

Bundy: I can't remember that you had to clean up the lavatory so much. ...[?]...

Ms. B.: ...gathering the eggs, and do things like that...

Bundy: Yeah, you had to gather eggs and help with the eggs lots of times....

Ms. B.: ...[?]..., too...I dunno, just a lot of things...

Bundy: Yeah,....but we all worked and,....and...and, we started them right in from the time they was born to help. And it was their place as much as our place, you know, it was our place, the whole thing. Everyday they was proud of their home and....and...

Ms. B.: Right,...[?]..to bring anybody...

Bundy: No, they was always allowed to bring anybody they wanted or anything, that way as far as their friends and so forth and they always, we always had a place for them to play. And after I got out of the chicken business we took one of the chicken houses which had a cement floor and cleaned it all up and made a skating rink out of it and they played for hours and hours and all their friends come and...and they really....they...it was....

Ms. B.: Was that movie set..[?]..that was by the ..[?]...tree, which we made into a house that we played house in?

Bundy: Yes, yes...I always let you play house in and...and....

...no...we...we never had any trouble because we always had something for them to do if we wanted to do it, and we tried not to overdo it on that...

Ms. B.: The problem he ever had with me was when I went to the dairy and never came home. I went out to get milk and I ...[?].. I could stand there and..[?]....I got it a few times too.

Bundy: Well, her first time she was about so big, ...

Ms. B.: ...I learn fast...

Bundy: She went up to the ranch next to us right across the field, five acres, to Fulton Street and the weed was pretty near as high as she was. I could,she had a little white hood and white cape on and I could see that little head bobbing along like that...and I went up there after her and asked her what she was doing up there, I dunno what she said but I said, "Well, now you just head for home." And she'd take a step and I'd wang, and she'd take a couple more steps and I'd wang...

Ms. B.: Never went that far again, after that.....

Bundy: That was the first, last, and only time that she ever ran away. But the neighbors just, there was an old couple lived there, the ...[?]..., they thought I was terrible, oh, I was just terrible...

Ms. B.: To hit your kids.

Bundy: Yeah, I was beating my kids something awful...

Ms. B.: At the time I thought so but as I got older I...I realized

he was just right.

Bundy: Well I just...

Ms. B.: Nowadays I think the kids live by the book. The parents let them express themselves. I let my kids express themselves, but there were times...

Dodson; Do you feel that you were much less strict with yours than your father was with you?

Ms. B.: No, not really. I don't think so.

Bundy: No, no. I think she was just as strict as I was.

Ms. B.: Not real hard core strict or anything like that...

Bundy: No, no.

Ms. B.: I mean...

Bundy: Uh, If they didn't do something. Not like her going off up there. I...that's the only time I can remember licking her, really. All the while I...I had just the...I can remember licking her because she'd stand up in bed when she was a little bitty baby. Then I went in and spanked her and put her down, and then she'd stay down see...and her mother... oh, her mother was so soft hearted she wouldn't do that kind of thing. Now listen, I'm not going to be home to do this all the time. Although I was home most of the time. And I said, "Your'e gonna have to." I said, "Your'e gonna have to make her", because we didn't have time to fool with her see...and uh you know like my sister, my mother, and so forth would come and they'd say, "Oh can we pick the baby up", and then they'd pick um up and "waah". They didn't

like that, they wanted to...They got so used to being in their bed and where they belonged, without being held, that they...they liked that better than they did to be held and ...and uh...We worked so hard, we would...I was up every morning at five o'clock, and sometimes four even, and generally we didn't get to bed until close to midnight and ...because after dark i'd have all these eggs to a candle, and put in cartons, and put...uh put out, clean and so forth...and uh...The wife would go down, we'd do this in the basement, and the wife would go down with me, and she'd clean um and I'd candle um and grade um and put em in cartons, ready for the next day.

Dodson: Before we go any further, I'm going to ask Paula if she knows what you are talking about when you said candle.

Ms. B.: Yes I do, but I think you better explain it to them.

Bundy: Allright, fine. Well you hold em over a light...

Ms. B.: Ech.

Bundy: And tell whether there's blood spots or anything uh wrong in the egg. Sometimes ther's floating spots of blood, and we always took the blood spots out. Not that they hurt anything. They won't hurt you or anything. It's just the looks of it, and people don't like it that way. The chicken when she's laying the egg, the yolk drops down, and uh a vein breaks sometimes, and a little drop of blood will go on between the yolk and the white. And when you hold it up to a light you can tell whether it's in the egg or not.

Dodson: Some of my relatives used to have a feed and seed store, and they did candle eggs. That's why I knew about it. But uh in their case, the farmers would bring the eggs in and they'd candle them before buying the eggs. In your case, you'd handle

them yourself.

Bundy: Yes, and and then I of course I sold them direct to the consumers.

Dodson: But there wouldn't be any one else in there...

Bundy: No.

Dodson: ...who would be doing it.

Bundy: And of course another thing...Now of course with me I had all fresh eggs, so I didn't have anything to worry about. But you grade eggs and candle eggs, so you can tell the evaporation and how old the egg is by how much air space there is in the egg. If the egg is old, the air space should be uh very small. When it's first laid, and as it gets old, it it comes down and it ul evaporate down sometimes oh a quarter to a half an inch. And that's an old egg. That's all there is to it. It may not be rotten, but it ul still be old. And uh of course nowadays they uh dip the eggs in a glaze that covers up the air holes in the shell. And they don't get old as fast as they will if you don't do that.

Dodson: Uh huh.

Bundy: It's a it's a uh glaze proposition that they dip them in, and they uh keep for a long time that way.

Dodson: That in effect was sealing them.

Bundy: Sealing them.

Dodson: Is what it does.

Bundy: Yes.

Dodson: Then you would have had quite a job yourself in the twenty-four hour period. If you collected the eggs and then candled them the same day.

Bundy: We had plenty of jobs, no foolin.

Dodson: Were you glad to get out of that business then?

Bundy: Well, yes I think so. I never really liked it in the first place.